

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a chamber ~~enclosing~~ which encloses an equipment; and

an air conditioner for controlling a supply of air supplied into said chamber, said air conditioner including (i) a refrigerator having a compressor and a condenser, and using a refrigerant, (ii) a first heat exchanger for exchanging heat between the refrigerant and a coolant, (iii) a second heat exchanger for exchanging heat between the coolant and the supply of air supplied into said chamber, and (iv) an electric heater, having a temperature sensor, for heating the supply of air at a predetermined temperature, wherein

the refrigerant in a gaseous state is circulated through said first heat exchanger, said compressor and said condenser, and

the refrigerant gas cools the coolant, in said first heat exchanger, and is subsequently compressed by said compressor and its temperature is raised thereby, and wherein

the temperature-raised refrigerant gas is heat-exchanged with cooling water by said condenser, whereby it is cooled and liquified, and

~~the refrigerant is circulated between said refrigerator and said first heat exchanger, and~~ wherein the coolant comprises a liquid and is circulated between said first and second heat exchangers.

2. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said air conditioner further includes an air blower.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said first heat exchanger comprises an evaporator.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said refrigerator comprises a compressor and a condenser.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a reservoir and a pump provided between said first and second heat exchangers.

7. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said air conditioner is disposed adjacent said chamber.

8. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said second heat exchanger is disposed adjacent said chamber, and wherein said refrigerator and said first heat exchanger are disposed separately from said chamber.

9. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the coolant is selected from the group consisting of water, an anti-freeze liquid, and a fluoride inert liquid.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said equipment is ~~selected from a group consisting of exposure equipment, inspection equipment and measuring equipment~~ at least one of an exposure apparatus, an inspection apparatus and a measuring apparatus.

Claims 12-17. (Cancelled).

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the semiconductor manufacturing equipment is a semiconductor exposure apparatus.

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the inspection equipment is a mask inspection equipment.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the measuring equipment is a laser interferometer.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:  
a chamber ~~enclosing~~ which encloses an equipment; and  
an air conditioner for controlling a supply of air supplied into said chamber, said air conditioner including (i) a refrigerator having a compressor and a condenser,  
and using a refrigerant, (ii) first heat exchanger means for exchanging heat between the refrigerant and a coolant, (iii) second heat exchanger means for exchanging heat between the

coolant and the supply of air supplied into said chamber, and (iv) an electric heater having a temperature sensor for heating the supply of air at a predetermined temperature, wherein

the refrigerant in a gaseous state is circulated through said first heat exchanger means, said compressor and said condenser, and

the refrigerant gas cools the coolant, in said first heat exchanger means, and is subsequently compressed by said compressor and its temperature is raised thereby, and  
wherein

the temperature-raised refrigerant gas is heat-exchanged with cooling water by said condenser, whereby it is cooled and liquified, and

the refrigerant is circulated between said refrigerator and said first heat exchanger, and wherein the coolant comprises a liquid and is circulated between said first and second heat exchangers exchanger means.

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